

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides methods and kits for isolating one strand of a double-stranded target nucleic acid. The method capitalizes on the differences in the kinetics and thermodynamic stabilities between conventional DNA/DNA, DNA/RNA and RNA/RNA duplexes and heteroduplexes in which one strand of the heteroduplexe is a nucleobase polymer having a net positively charged or net neutral backbone, such as a PNA.